



THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14627

February 1, 1971

Viking Biology Team members
Drs. Klein, Rich, Lederberg, Horowitz,
Levin, Oyama

Gentlemen:

As some of you know there is a good possibility of the Director of the Laboratory for Exobiology and his Deputy of the Institute for Space Research of the Soviet Academy to visit this country for some unspecified time. Dr. Mukhin has received a personal invitation from me and the chances of his being able to come would be increased if letters from the National Academy and from some appropriate NASA office were^{also} addressed to him or to his superiors.

Dr. Mukhin plans to spend some time with me and to visit several laboratories. On my visits to Moscow Dr. Mukhin has demonstrated to me the various laboratory versions of instruments which he hopes will be landed on Mars for biological investigations. From our point of view, there is nothing drastically new, he showed me his gas chromatography for the study of soil respiration, carbon¹⁴ counting techniques which minimized interference by gamma radiation, and the beginning of work on gas chromatography combined with mass spectroscopy. I would like to suggest that he be invited to attend a team meeting or be given some other opportunity to talk to all the team members and that he might be called a "visiting consultant" or whatever title sounds appropriate.

If you have any violent objections to this proposal please communicate them as soon as possible, let us say one week after receipt of this letter, to Chuck Klein.

Sincerely,

Prof. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

Wolf V. Vishniac

Wolf V. Vishniac
Dictated but not read

WV:klw

cc: G. Soffen

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